

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

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SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER' S MEETING WITH
SECRETARY ROGERS, APRIL 9

1. IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY, MINISTER VAZQUEZ RAISED THREE
BILATERAL MATTERS, AND OAS/ GA AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT
POLICY WERE MENTIONED. CUBA WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

2. VAZQUEZ FIRST REFERRED TO REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY
WOULD BE VISITING LATIN AMERICA AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EXTEND AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT
COLOMBIA SAYING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE, WOULD WISH
TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND PRESIDENT PASTRANA.
THE SECRETARY TOOK NOTE OF THE INVITATION SAYING THAT WE
HOPED TO BE IN TOUCH IN SEVERAL DAYS AS TO PLANS RELATING TO
SUCH A TRIP.

3. THE MINISTER THEN SAID THAT HE WANTED TO RAISE ONCE
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AGAIN THE SUBJECT OF COFFEE WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO COLOMBIA- REFERRING TO THE CURRENT MEETINGS IN LONDON, HE SAID THAT COLOMBIA HOPED THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE AGREED UPON THERE TO EXTEND THE ICA IN AN ELEMENTAL FORM BUT THAT EQUALLY IMPORTANT WAS THE NEED TO AGREE TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF A REPLACEMENT FOR THE ICA. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DISCUSSIONS NOW UNDERWAY IN LONDON WERE GOING WELL AND THAT WE HOPED THERE COULD BE AGREEMENT ON A STANDBY ARRANGEMENT.

4. VAZQUEZ ALSO MENTIONED THE QUITA SUENO TREATY SAYING THAT THE COLOMBIAN SENATE HAD APPROVED IT AND THAT THE CHAMBER WAS EXPECTED TO ACT ON IT AT ITS NEXT SESSION. MEANWHILE, THE GOC HOPED THAT THE US WOULD RATIFY THE AGREEMENT AFTER WHICH, EVEN THOUGH THE GOC HAD NOT COMPLETED ITS RATIFICATION PROCESS, COLOMBIA WOULD ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS AUTHORITIES TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY AFFECTING FISHING RIGHTS. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OUR RATIFICATION WOULD NOT BE LONG DELAYED.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUERY AS TO HOW THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS PROGRESSING, THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT A RESOLUTION WOULD BE AGREED UPON PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE OAS STRUCTURE; WHILE THIS COMMITTEE MIGHT HAVE TO INCLUDE 23 MEMBERS, HE HOPED IT WOULD BE SMALLER IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE IA- ECOSOC SHOULD BECOME A MORE " FLEXIBLE" INSTRUMENT, PUTTING ASIDE THE CUSTOM OF 23 SPEECHES AT EACH MEETING AND DEVOTING ITSELF TO DISCUSSION OF CONCRETE ISSUES. THE SECRETARY AGREED BUT SAID THAT THE THING THAT BOTHERS US IS THE " WE OR THEY" ATTITUDE WHEREBY DISCUSSIONS BECOME MATTERS OF CONTROVERSY. THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM SHOULD REMEMBER THE SECURITY ASPECTS WHICH ARE A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT. ALSO, HE SAID, WE SHOULD STRESS AREAS WE HAVE IN COMMON RATHER THAN OUR DIFFERENCES. WHEN VAZQUEZ SAID WE SHOULD TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT ALL TOO OFTEN WE CAN AGREE ON PRINCIPLES BUT NOT ON APPLICATION OF THEM.

6. TURNING TO INVESTMENT POLICY, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT SOME COUNTRIES WANT FOREIGN INVESTMENT WHEREAS OTHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DID NOT AND THAT OUR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PUSH ITS CITIZENS

TO INVEST ABROAD -- WE LEAVE THOSE DECISIONS TO THE
" MARKET PLACE". VAZQUEZ RESPONDED THAT FOREIGN INVEST-
MENTS WERE NOT LARGE IN COLOMBIA BUT THAT COLOMBIANS
THOUGHT THEY MET THE SECRETARY' S VIEW THROUGH APPLICATION
OF THE ANDEAN INVESTMENT CODE. THE RULES ARE SET, AND
POTENTIAL INVESTORS ARE AWARE OF WHAT THEY ARE AND CAN
MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS. ROGERS

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